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**MARCH 20, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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HAGERSTOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SELLING ECSTASY PILLS

Baltimore - Maryland. Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Ryhan Weaver, age 21, of Hagerstown, Maryland, pled guilty today before United States District Court Judge Frederick Motz to conspiracy to distribute 3,4 methlenedioxy methamphetamine/MDMA known as the drug “ecstasy.”

According to the statement of facts presented to the court, an investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in Hagerstown revealed that Weaver was distributing large amounts of ecstasy tablets in the Hagerstown area, selling the tablets for between \$15 and \$20 each. A DEA undercover agent purchased thousands of tablets from Weaver and members of his organization during November 2001 through the end of July 2002. In addition to Weaver, Jeffrey Piper, age 21, of Marion, Pennsylvania and Christopher Douglas, age 23, of Montgomery County, Maryland were charged in the conspiracy. Piper’s case is pending in the United States district court. Since appearing in U.S. district court on August 23, 2003 after his arrest, Douglas has failed to appear at

subsequent court appearances and is currently a fugitive.

Weaver faces a maximum prison sentence of 20 years and his sentencing is scheduled for July 30, 2003.

This case was investigated by the Hagerstown DEA Office and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan P. Luna.